

Message Text

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73

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON AGNEW AND FORD

1. SUMMARY: RECENT SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF SPIRO AGNEW'S RESIGNATION SEEMS TO IMPLY THAT HIS REPLACEMENT BY GERALD FORD WOULD BE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW.
END SUMMARY

2. SEPTEMBER 17 IZVESTIYA CARRIES WASHINGTON-DATELINED ARTICLED BY KONDRASHOV ON AGNEW RESIGNATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES. COMMENTING THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THAT SECOND MAN IN USG RESIGNED IN SUCH "DEGRADING AND SHAMEFUL" CIRCUMSTANCES, KONDRASHOV REVIEWS AGNEW'S CAREER IN UNFLATTERING TERMS AND CONCLUDES THAT MONEY IS NOXIOUS AND PERVASIVE INFLUENCE IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND THAT, HOWEVER MUCH AGNEW'S RESIGNATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY RHETORIC ABOUT HIS PATRIOTISM, SINCERITY, AND COURAGE, AMERICANS' LACK OF FAITH IN POLITICIANS HAS GROWN EVEN GREATER. NEW NOMINEE GERALD FORD, ON OTHER HAND, IS DESCRIBED AS HIS OWN MAN, CONSERVATIVE, COMPETENT, EXPERIENCED, EVEN-TEMPERED, AND DISTINGUISHED BY GREAT LOYALTY (PREDANNOST') TO THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

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3. OCTOBER 19 NOVOYE VREMYA ARTICLE BY ANDRONOV TREATS

MORE FACTUALLY AND AT GREATER LENGTH AGNEW CAREER AND LEGAL CASE, AND PLACES PART OF BLAME ON CLIMATE OF "RACISM AND OBSCURANTISM" IN WHITE SUBURBS OF AMERICAN CITIES. HIS NOMINATION IN 1968 IS CREDITED TO SOUTHERN STRATEGY BUT NOT TO ANY PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL, AND WHITE HOUSE IS REPORTED AS HAVING DISSOCIATED ITSELF FROM AGNEW DURING RECENT CRISIS. ANDRONOV CONCLUDES THAT SUCH CORRUPTION IS FAR FROM RARE IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND THAT AGNEW CASE IS ONE OF EXTERNAL MANIFESTATIONS OF DEPTH OF SOCIAL AND MORAL CRISIS AFFLICTING AMERICA.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET COMMENTATORS HAVE IN PAST LINKED AGNEW TO EXTREME CONSERVATIVES. SOVIETS PROBABLY EXPECT THAT FORD WILL BE MORE LOYAL TO NIXON ADMINISTRATION DETENTE POLICIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO USSR. AS IN WATERGATE REPORTING, SOVIET PRESS BENDS OVER BACKWARDS TO AVOID LINKING PRESIDENT PERSONALLY TO UNFOLDING SCANDALS.
DUBS

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